VIRTUES

OF

BRITISH HERBS.

By Dr. HILL.

1771.

VIRTUES

OF

BRITISH HERBS.

WITH THEIR

HISTORY, and FIGURES,

And an Account of the Diseases they will cure;

CONTAINING,

CURES—Of Consumptions by Coltsfoot Tea;
Of Hectic Fevers by the Daisy;
Of Colics by Leaves of Chamomile;
Of Agues by its Flowers:

And a Case, of the Hooping-Cough, cured by a Tea of the fresh Root of Elecampane.

CURES—Of the Gravel by a Tea of Golden-Rod;
Of the Scurvy by Eupatorium;
Of the Piles by Yarrow:

An Account of the eminent Virtues of Petasite Root in Pestilential and all other Fevers, and the Plague itself:

Of Tanzy for the Worms;
Of Consound as a Vulnerary;

And an Instance of a Stomach-Complaint cured by a Tea of the Flowers of Sweet Feverfew.

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Member of the Imperial Academy.

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M,DCC,LXXII.

V I R T U E S

OF THE

BRITISH NEPTUNE,

INTRODUCTION.

THE Author having read a great deal, and ſeen ſomething, of the Virtues of Plants of our own Growth, intends here, to the beſt of his abilities, to be uſeful: recounting all that is juſtly attributed to theſe Plants by reſpected Authors; and confirming, by authentic caſes, whatever has been repeated within his own experience.

Having lately written a Hiſtory of the Britiſh Plants in a ſuccinct manner, and in the Latin language; intended principally for the uſe of

Phyſicians, he propoſes here to deliver the Accounts of their Virtues, and Rules for adminiſtering them; fitted for general ſervice, and in our own tongue: and to lay down the whole more at large, than was needful to thoſe who were already acquainted with the practice of Phyſic.

The firſt care will be to acquaint the Reader perfectly with the Plant that is recommended to be uſed: and to prevent all occaſion of error, a Figure and Hiſtory will be given, not only of the right kind, but of all others of the ſame Name, and general Nature; which might be miſtaken for it; tho' they have no particular virtue, or perhaps have even contrary qualities.

Next, the Diſeaſe in which the Herb, thus known with certainty, may be ſerviceable, will be ſo explained, that all error in that article may be alſo avoided.

And

And the laſt care will be to direct in what manner the ſalutary Plant may beſt be uſed in families.

Beſide the Engliſh Name of every Herb, there is given the Latin one: and this, it is earneſtly recommended to all perſons, to accuſtom themſelves to uſe. There is great and valuable knowledge eaſily to be acquired on this ſubject; and it ſhould be propagated univerſally: but this way alone that can be done.

The Engliſh Names of Herbs are equivocal; the ſame word is often uſed by our authors as a Name for many different Plants: but in the Latin all is certain. As our own Names can be only underſtood in our own country; when we uſe a Latin one the whole world knows what we ſpeak of: and by the arrangement here, (when the Tables of Method relating to the whole are publiſhed,) as all Plants of a like kind are placed together, and their diſtinguiſhing characters are given, any will be found with eaſe.

Lungwort is equally the Engliſh Name of a kind of *Hawkweed*, of a ſort of *Moſs*, and of a Plant approaching to the nature of *Hound's-tongue*: now when an Herb is directed under that Name, no one can tell which of all theſe is meant. In Latin their Names are as different as their Nature; and in uſing thoſe, there can be no miſtake. A thouſand inſtances of like kind might be produced: but one is as good as a thouſand.

It will be happy, if, by the ſame means, the knowledge of Plants alſo become more general. The ſtudy of them is pleaſant; and the exerciſe of it healthful. He who ſeeks the Herb for his cure; will often find it half effected by the walk: and when he is acquainted with the uſeful kinds, he may be more peoples, beſide his own, Phyſician.

This knowledge is not to be ſought in the old Herbals; they contain but a ſmall part

of

of it: and what they hold is locked up in obſcurity. They are exceſſive in their praiſes: and in ſaying too much; they ſay nothing. All virtues are, in a manner, attributed to all Plants; and 'tis the ſkill alone of a Phyſician that can ſeparate, (in thoſe that have any) which is the true. Turn to the Herbals of Gerard Parkinſon, or the more ancient Turner, and you ſhall find, in many inſtances, virtues of the moſt exalted kind related of Herbs, which, if you were to eat daily as ſallads, would cauſe no alteration in the body.

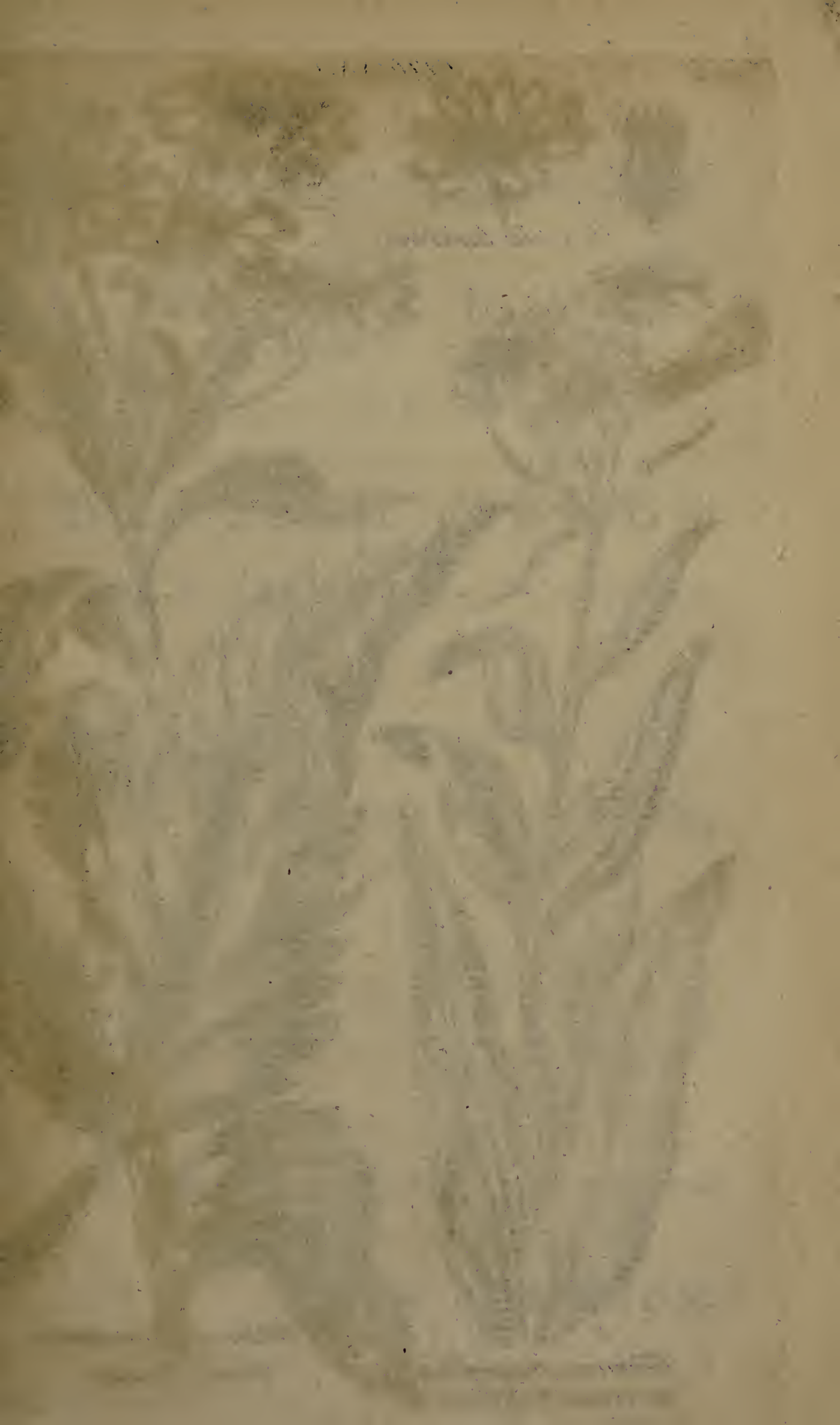
But we are not to conclude from this, that Herbs do not poſſeſs real virtues. Very many of them do; and of kinds ſo eminent, that phyſic would be but a poor art without them. To diſtinguiſh theſe, and to teach perſons not bred to phyſic how to apply them, is the good intended in this Publication: and even beyond the bounds of written leſſons, ſuch opportunities, as the Author of it has to promote this purpoſed utility, will never be withheld from any.

If

If any one entertains a doubt concerning the Plant he would uſe, after comparing it with the Figure and Deſcription, the Gardener at *Bayſwater* ſhall give a ſample of it, for aſking: and all Perſons may command the farther Opinion and Directions of the Author when they pleaſe.

St. James's Street,
Nov. 3, 1771.

J. HILL.



Character Genericus

1

Othonna integrifolia
Mountain Ragwort.

2

Othonna palustris
Marsh Flebane

VIRTUES
OF
BRITISH HERBS.

HERBS
Which have a radiated Flower; growing in a divided Cup.

1. OTHONNA.
SEGGROM.

Plate 1.

The Cup is deeply divided, into a number of long, flat Teeth.

1. OTHONNA INTEGRIFOLIA.

MOUNTAIN RAGWORT.

Plate 1. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are undivided.

This is a Weed of our high Paſture Grounds; but not common: it ſcarce exceeds eight Inches in height; but it grows upright; and has no Branches.

The Leaves are pale, thick, and downy.

The Flowers are of a light yellow; they grow in a Cluſter at the Top of the Stalk, and have a Circle of narrow Leaves under them.

They blow in July.

Beſide the Virtues which are known in Plants; it will be uſeful to give Cautions of their Danger. Careful farmers ſay this hurts their ſheep: that their wool grows looſe on eating it. Taken inwardly it is an acrid, and a dangerous purge. There is a kind, ſcarce differing from this, which manifeſts the ſame ill qualities, in Switzerland.

We

We have in this, and the ſucceeding Plant, a ſtriking inſtance of the value of Latin names. Othonna, or Cineraria, belongs to both theſe; and each has, under theſe names, a juſt diſtinction by its ſecond term; the one by Integrifolia, and the other by Paluſtris. The name Othonna belongs to no Britiſh Plant beſide theſe two; and will be underſtood, not only here, but in all nations: Whereas the Term Seggrom, which is diſtinctly and truly the name of theſe Plants, is in our language applied alſo to the common Ragwort, an Herb of our Paſtures, and to Groundſell, a Weed of our Gardens: and, to encreaſe the confuſion, it is, in common ſpeaking, not given to either of theſe two; for cuſtom calls one of theſe Ragwort, and the other Fleabane. Many words would be needful to explain theſe equivocal expreſſions, if uſed in directing the Plants for Medicine; and perhaps, after all, it would not be done well: but the Latin name removes all doubt at once: it belongs to nothing elſe, and it is known univerſally; nor will any

future innovation, however ſupported, change it in the judicious mind; or prevent the Plant's being diſtinctly and perfectly known, by all perſons, under this denomination.

2. OTHONNA PALUSTRIS.

MARSH FLEABANE.

Plate 1. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are deeply cut.

This is an inhabitant of our marſhes, toward the ſea: a perennial Plant.

It grows to a Yard high, but with few Branches.

The Leaves are of a freſh green; very ſmooth, and delicate.

The Flowers are yellow, large, and not unhandſome.

They blow in Auguſt.

Its qualities too much reſemble thoſe of the preceding

preceding kind. Cattle, brought from other places, into ſome lands belonging to myſelf, near Whitleſea, in the Iſle of Ely, have fallen into diſeaſes on eating it: Thoſe bred where it grows are obſerved not to touch it.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, formed of one row of diſtinct Scales.

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1. BIDENS.

HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 2.

The Scales which compoſe the Cup are hollowed.

1. BIDENS CERNUA.

DROOPING HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 2. Fig. 1.

The Leaves embrace the Stalk at their baſe.

This

This is a common Plant about the ditches in Ireland: but it is ſcarce with us.

It has a branching reddiſh Stalk of about two Feet high.

The Leaves are of a deep, dull green, and ſmooth.

The Flowers are of a dead yellow: they hang their heads; but the Tufts of Seed that follow ſtand upright.

It is an Annual; it flowers in July, and laſts till the froſt kills it.

This is one of the very many Britiſh Plants, concerning the Virtues of which we are perfectly ignorant. No one has yet tried it; but there are reaſons to ſuppoſe its qualities are eminent. Cattle are not fond of it. This often is a mark of great medicinal virtues; as well as ſometimes of miſchievous powers.

The ſmell is ſtrong, and ſingular; the taſte is ſharp, and biting, with a little bitterneſs.

There

There is a Plant, of Ceylon, called Acmella, a kind of Verbeſina, diſtinguiſhed beyond all things in the cure of the Gravel. This has its very taſte and ſmell, and flavour; and Chymiſtry has ſhewn their near reſemblance: A careful ſucceſſor of Nebelius made this trial; and 'tis pity ſome one has not, in like manner, examined into it's qualities in medicine. 'Tis one of the Herbs to be recommended to the practiſing Phyſicians; and will not want its place among thoſe hereafter to be examined, by the Author of theſe obſervations.

If there could want more proof of the propriety, nay the neceſſity, of ſpeaking of Plants under their Latin names, we have another here before us. This Herb is here recommended to the practiſers of phyſic, for trial, in a great and terrible, and yet a very common diſeaſe: now if we ſhould have given it only its Engliſh name, Hemp Agrimony, that is alſo the name of the herb Eupatorium, a Plant as different from this as two things well can be from one another; in taſte,

in ſmell, and virtues, as well as in its form: for this other Herb, called alſo Hemp Agrimony in Engliſh, is a purge.

Two perſons, in two places, uſing thoſe different Herbs under the ſame name, could never confirm, or ſo much as believe, each other's accounts: and there is no other way to truth in medicine, but by theſe mutual trials: But when we call the Herb by its diſtinct Latin name, Bidens, it is impoſſible this error ſhould have place; or any other, when we apply farther to its ſecond name, and its Deſcription, and Figure here.

2. TUSSILAGO.

COLTSFOOT.

Plate 2.

The Scales which compoſe the Cup are flat.

1. TUSSI-

TUSSILAGO

Character Genericus

BIDENS

Character Genericus

Tussilago Farfara.

Common Coltsfoot.

Bidens Cernua.

Drooping Hemp Agrimony.

1. TUSSILAGO FARFARA.

COMMON COLTSFOOT.

Plate 2. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are hearted.

This low Herb ſpreads its Root in damp and clayey grounds; from which the flowers riſe early in Spring, before the Leaves appear; and fade, and are quite gone by that time theſe have attained their natural ſize: a thing that looked ſo ſingular to our anceſtors, they called the Plant, The *Son before the Father*.

The Stalk is about ſeven Inches high, leafleſs, but hung about with ſkinny films; and on its top there ſtands only one Flower.

The Leaves, which are in their perfection when this part is quite gone, are roundiſh, and notched; as broad as one's hand; of a pale green; white and downy underneath; and of a tough, firm ſubſtance.

The Flower is lemon-coloured; and large.

The Root is perennial; and the Leaves are to be had till Winter. Theſe are the part which contain its great virtue: they have a ſoft and mucilaginous, but ſomewhat bitter taſte.

They are good in the Gravel, and Inflammations of the Kidneys; but their great virtue is in diſeaſes of the Breaſt; in Aſthmas particularly; and in Conſumptions. The beſt way of taking Coltsfoot is in decoction; for it does not ſo fully or well communicate its virtues to ſpirit. The way to have them beſt of all for uſe is this:

Clip ſmall a quantity of the Leaves freſh gathered; put them into an earthen pipkin, and pour upon them as much boiling water as will cover them. Let this ſtand all night. In the morning boil it a few minutes; and put in as much honey as will ſweeten it. A half-pint

baſin

baſin of this ſhould be drank warm three times a day.

The patient ſhould alſo have ſome of the Leaves dried and cut ſmall, and ſmoke them as tobacco. This is a practice as old as the time of the Romans; and preſent experience ſhews it right, and excellent.

Few things will do ſo much toward curing a Conſumption, as Coltsfoot, uſed conſtantly theſe two ways.

Here let us ſtop a moment, and adore the goodneſs of the Divine Providence; which makes the beſt things the moſt common! The Seggroms, which can do only miſchief, are found but in a few places: this, ſo full of excellence, grows at our doors; and we tread it every where under our feet.

RADIATED HERBS,

WITH A

DOUBLE CUP.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, compoſed of two Ranges of Scales.

---

1. BELLIS.

DAISY.

Plate 3.

The Cup is rounded, and its Scales are equal.

1. BELLIS

BELLIS

Character Genericus

Bellis Perennis

Little Daisy

1. BELLIS PERENNIS.

LITTLE DAISY.

Plate 3.

One Flower only grows upon a Stalk.

This is the univerſal ornament of our paſtures; a Perennial; flowering all the Summer.

Its leafleſs Stalk is three Inches high.

The Leaves, which grow from the Root, are oblong, ſmooth, and of a deep green.

Its Flowers, in their wildeſt and moſt ſimple ſtate, are very pretty by their mixture of red and white; but when the gardener beſtows culture on them, few things return it better: we ſee them grow double, large, full, quilled, and proliferous; young Flowers ſurrounding the older.

This is another Herb which Nature has made

common; becauſe it may be uſeful.—The Daiſy has great, but neglected qualities; worthy of a ſerious attention.

Its Leaves contain theſe virtues. Their taſte is that of Coltsfoot, but more mucilaginous; and without its bitterneſs.

It is excellent againſt Hectic Fevers; and internal Inflammations, of whatever kind; and in whichever of the Viſcera.

An infuſion of it ſhould be made as of the Coltsfoot, and juſt once boiled. It ſhould then be drank in the ſame manner, with an equal quantity of milk.

Aſſes milk has ten times its effect if this be taken with it.

2. ANTHEMIS.

CHAMOMILE.

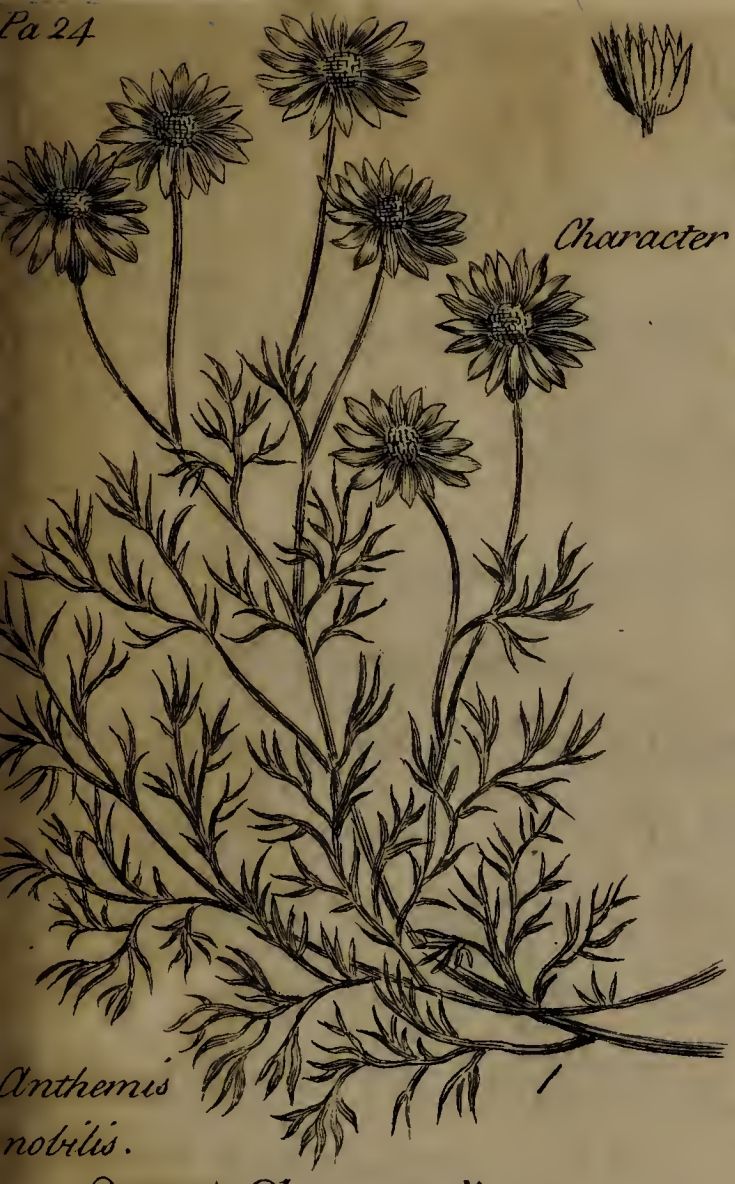
Plate 4.

The Cup is rounded, but the Scales are of unequal length.

1. ANTHE-

ANTHEMIS

Character Genericus



Anthemis nobilis.

1

Sweet Chamæmile

Anthemis fœtida 2

Stinking Mayweed

Anthemis Arvensis

Corn Chamæmile.

3

Anthemis Tinctoria

Oxeye.

4

1. ANTHEMIS NOBILIS.

SWEET-SCENTED CHAMOMILE.

Plate 4. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are three times divided, and the diviſions are narrow.

This ſweet Plant grows wild with us, on damp heaths, and by waters; and has much greater virtues there, than in our gardens.

'Tis a Perennial, ſcarce riſing five or ſix Inches from the ground.

The Leaves are of a deep green, fragrant, and cut into very fine diviſions.

The Flowers are large and white.

Nature offers them to us ſingle; and in that ſtate they have the greateſt virtue; becauſe thoſe yellow Threads which then fill their center poſſeſs it highly; but 'tis the unlucky cuſtom of the time to uſe them double from the gardens.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

All parts of this excellent Plant are full of virtue.

virtue. The Leaves, given in infuſion, cure Colics; and diſpel wind from the Stomach; and are excellent againſt Indigeſtion.

The Flowers are a fine and noble bitter. Few things are equal to them in ſtrengthening the Stomach, and creating an appetite, as well as aſſiſting digeſtion. But more than this, they will cure Agues. I have known them do it after the Bark has failed.

The beſt way of taking the Leaves is in a ſtrong kind of Tea, in which way even that Colic which attends the Gravel yields to them.

When given to ſtrengthen the Stomach, a Tea made ſtrong of the ſingle Flowers of the Wild Chamomile is beſt: and thoſe who have not made it from ſuch Flowers know leſs than half its virtue.

For Agues, the ſame kind of Flowers ſhould be dried and powdered, and a ſcruple taken

once

once in four hours; and this repeated for four days.

An oil, diſtilled from theſe Flowers, is excellent in Colics; and, what is very ſingular, it is blue.

2. ANTHEMIS COTULA.

STINKING MAYWEED.

Plate 4. Fig. 2.

The center of the Flower riſes, and the diviſions of the Leaves ſwell in the middle.

This offenſive Plant is common in plowed lands; an annual Weed, that, by its abundance, often robs the crops of their beſt nouriſhment.

It grows to a Foot high, branched and ſpreading.

The Stalk is ruddy.

The Leaves are of a deep and blackiſh green, and of an ill ſmell.

The Flowers are white, with a high yellow diſk, pointed at top.

They

They blow in May and June.

The Flowers have the ſame virtue with thoſe of Chamomile, but in a very inferior degree, and are leſs agreeable.

The Leaves operate by urine, and ſometimes by ſtool; but both ways roughly and diſagreeably. 'Tis ſtrange that Hoffman thought theſe Leaves more emollient than thoſe of Chamomile. Experience ſhews otherwiſe.

3. ANTHEMIS ARVENSIS.

CORN CHAMOMILE.

Plate 4. Fig. 3.

The center of the Flower riſes: the Leaves are thin like hairs.

This is the commoneſt Weed on our ditch banks.

It grows to a Foot and half high; wild and ſpreading.

The

The Stalk is red and brittle.

The Leaves are of a dead pale green.

The Flowers are large, and white.

They blow in June, and laſt till Winter kills the Plant.

The qualities are thoſe of the ſweet Chamomile, but in a ſlight degree.

4. ANTHEMIS TINCTORIA.

OXEYE CHAMOMILE.

Plate 4. Fig. 4.

The Leaves are deep cut, and their parts are dented.

This is a Perennial, native only of our northern counties; but there, it is a paſture Weed, not uncommon.

The Stalk is ruddy, two Foot high, and branchy.

The Leaves are gloſſy, of a freſh, pale green, and a little downy underneath.

The

The Flowers are of a gold yellow, large, and very handſome.

They blow in June.

The Flowers contain the virtue of the Plant. They promote urine; and have often cured the Jaundice. They are to be dried, and carefully powdered. A dram is to be taken twice a day.

They are uſeful alſo in manufacture; for they afford a yellow for the dyers.

5. ANTHEMIS MARITIMA.

SEA CHAMOMILE.

Plate 5.

The Leaves are thick and fleſhy, and the Cups are downy.

This is an inhabitant of our damp grounds, toward the ſea; a very pretty creeping Plant.

The Stalk is crimſon, branchy, and ſix Inches long; but it ſcarce riſes from the ground.

The

ANTHEMIS

Anthemis Maritima

Sea Chamæmile

The Leaves are of a freſh, blueiſh green, and dotted.

The Flowers are ſmall, and white, with a yellow diſk.

They blow in June.

Their virtues are thoſe of Chamomile; but ſlight and trifling.

Thoſe who live about the ſea coaſts, where this Plant is common, uſe an infuſion of the Flowers, for Agues; but the powder of the right kind is far better.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, formed of many ranges of ſcaly Films.

1. INULA.

1. INULA.

ELFWORT.

Plate 6.

The Cup is wide, the Scales ſtand looſe, and the lower range is leafy.

1. INULA HELENIUM.

ELECAMPANE.

Plate 6. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are vaſt, rugged, long; and hoary underneath.

This is a native of our meadow grounds; and from its virtues is become common in our gardens.

It is a robuſt and ſtately Plant; a Perennial with a firm and a handſome appearance. It grows to four Foot high.

The Stalk is thick, ruddy, and branched a little.

The Leaves are of a dull, faint green.

The Flowers are large, and yellow.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

INULA

Character Genericus

Inula dysenterica.
Middle Fleabane.

Inula Helenium.
Elecampane.

Inula pulicaria.
Small Fleabane.

Inula Crithmoides.
Golden Sampire.

The Root, which is long and large, contains the virtues of the Plant: and few have greater.

It has a fragrant, very agreeable ſmell, and a ſpicy, ſharp, and ſomewhat bitteriſh taſte. It has long been famous for the cure of all diſeaſes of the Breaſt; and it has alſo great virtues in malignant fevers: but it has others; and thoſe more diſtinguiſhable than theſe: in ſtrengthening the Stomach, and that way aſſiſting digeſtion; not in the manner of bitters, but as a warm, invigorating, and animating medicine, it has not its equal: and it cures the Chin-cough in children, when all elſe fails.

'Twere vain to expect theſe virtues in the dried Root, ſold at druggiſts; which has been baked, ground in a mill, and, tho' cheap enough in itſelf, yet mixed with flour, to make it cheaper. In that ſtate it has little either of taſte, ſmell, or virtue. The garden muſt ſupply it freſh to thoſe who would know its real value. There, as it riſes freely from Nature,

it is full of all theſe excellent qualities. The taſte and ſmell, compared with the dry, will abundantly ſhew this, before we feel its good Effects.

The way of taking it is this:

Slice the freſh Root thin; and to a quarter of a pound of it pour three pints of boiling water. After ſtanding all night, boil it a few moments; and, when cold, ſtrain the Liquor off.

To a pint of this add a quarter of a pint of mountain wine; if 'tis to be given to a grown perſon for diſorders of the Stomach: and let a full wine glaſs of this be drank three times a day.

When it is intended for the Chin-cough, half the quantity of the Root will be ſufficient. It need only be infuſed, not boiled: and inſtead of the wine, add a quarter of a pound of honey: then give two table-ſpoonfuls at a doſe, four times a day.

Nor

Nor will the virtues of this Root, in curing this kind of Cough, appear at all ſtrange to thoſe who, practiſing rational phyſic, trace up diſeaſes to their cauſe.

The Chin-cough is not of the nature of thoſe Coughs which follow Colds; it has not the ſame origin, nor is it ſeated in the ſame place. A tough and ſouriſh phlegm, lodged on the coats of the Stomach, and adhering to them, is the cauſe. Nature at once ſhews this; and points out the way to the cure; by children vomiting up ſuch phlegm, after their violent fits of coughing in this diſeaſe; and always finding relief from it.

Now, of all medicines yet known, Elecampane Root, when freſh and full of virtue, warms, ſtrengthens, and invigorates the Stomach the beſt: and by that, cures the diſeaſe, and prevents its return.

This is not a new; but only a neglected doctrine: Walſchmid and Dolæus, great and excellent writers, tho' too little read at preſent, confirm it with reaſons; and by repeated obſervations.

Receive an inſtance of it here, at home:

Miſs *** ******, of Soho, was brought to me, reduced almoſt to death by this diſeaſe. She coughed by fits for a length of time ſcarce credible; and that with diſtracting efforts, and a ſound that tore the hearts of all who ſaw, and heard her.

The nurſe had given her Cup Moſs; and the apothecary moſaic gold; in vain. They had fed her with fried mice, (according to a boaſted family receipt) to loathing; but that could be to no purpoſe. A phyſician of great worth had followed Sydenham faithfully, and the poor infant had been bled and purged till no

ſtrength

ſtrength remained; except in the diſeaſe: which grew ſtill worſe, as ſhe grew weaker.

'Twas in this ſtate I ſaw the poor, the emaciated little creature; when I directed the Elecampane Root.

She firſt took a very gentle vomit, a few grains of Ipecacuanha. The efforts this occaſioned were nothing; compared but to an ordinary fit of coughing.

A few drops of Lettuce wine compoſed her for the night; and next day ſhe began to take the infuſion, as here directed to be made, with honey, and only of half the ſtrength: two ounces of the Root being uſed to three pints of water, and that without the boiling.

From the time ſhe began this ſhe uſed no other drink; and from that time ſhe gradually recovered.

Her body was, in the mean while, kept open; not by purges; for they irritate; but by glyſters: and ſhe became ſo well, that the ſervants here would not believe 'twas the ſame child, tho' brought by the ſame perſon.

What infinite good may ariſe from this eaſy remedy being once made univerſally known! 'Tis ſo innocent that none need fear to adminiſter it. And if in any caſe circumſtances riſe which require particular advice, ſuch as I can give, they always may command who want it.

Since the two firſt Editions of this Pamphlet were publiſhed, a great deal of good has been obtained by this Plant: and the more it is uſed, the more it will be eſteemed.

2. INULA DYSENTERICA.

MIDDLE FLEABANE.

Plate 6. Fig. 2.

The Stalk is woolly; and the Leaves are oblong, and clammy.

This is an ugly and ill-looking annual Weed, frequent on waſte grounds and by way-ſides.

It grows to a Foot high, with a few Branches.

The Leaves are pale, and whitiſh; and ſtick to the Fingers on touching them.

The Flowers are of a light yellow.

They blow in Auguſt.

One ſcarce would think any thing reſembling Elecampane in ſmell, would be diſguſtful: but this, tho' with the real flavour of that charming Herb, is highly ſo: and in its taſte is acrid, and forbidding.

3. INULA PULICARIA.

SMALL FLEABANE.

Plate 6, Fig. 3.

The Rays of the Flower are very ſhort: the Leaves are ſhort and waved.

This is another ill-looking annual Weed, frequent in wet waſte places.

It grows to eight Inches high; but commonly lies, in part, upon the ground.

The Stalk is of a ruddy brown.

The Leaves are ſhort, ſmall, and of a dull dead green.

The Flowers are ſmall, very poor, and of a dirty yellow.

They blow in Auguſt.

The ſmell of this and the former are ſuppoſed hateful to inſects; and the juice deſtructive of them.

4. INULA CRITHMOIDES.

GOLDEN SAMPIRE.

Plate 6. Fig. 4.

The Leaves are three pointed.

This

This beautiful perennial Plant is the ornament of our ſea marſhes.

It grows to a Yard high, with many Branches.

The Leaves are of a blue green; thick, fleſhy, and juicy.

The Flowers are of a gold yellow.

They blow in June.

II.

CHRYSANTHEMUM CORN MARYGOLD.

The Cup is elliptic, and its Scales ſtand cloſe: the inner range of them is thin.

---

1. CHRYSANTHEMUM SEGETUM. CORN MARYGOLD.

Plate 7. Fig. 1.

The Root Leaves are oblong, and deep dented.

This

This very beautiful Plant is an Annual, native of our corn fields.

It grows to two foot high, with many ſpreading Branches.

The Leaves are gloſſy, and of a blue green.

The Flowers are large, and of a gold yellow.

They blow in Auguſt.

2. CHRYSANTHEMUM LEUCANTHEMUM. GREAT DAISY.

Plate 7. Fig. 2.

This is a biennial Plant; an ornament of our paſture grounds, as the other of our corn fields, in Autumn. It is no way related to the Little Daiſy of our meadows, in character or virtues; only in name.

It grows to two foot high, with few Branches.

The Leaves are of a deep, dead green, and ſmooth.

The Flowers are vaſt, and of a milky white.

They

Character Genericus
Chrysanthemum Segetum.
Corn Marygold.
1
Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum.
Great Daisy.
2

Pa 43

ASTER

Character Genericus

Aster Tripolium.
Sea Starwort.

They blow in Auguſt.

The taſte of this Plant is ſharp and acrid: and it has no ſmell. Its virtues have not been enough enquired into.

It is a ſharp and pungent diuretic; cleanſing the kidneys: but many and careful trials ſhould be made of it before 'tis freely uſed. An infuſion contains all its virtue; and has the heat of Cardamoms, or Cubebs. Any boiling weakens it.

III.

ASTER.

STARWORT.

The Cup is conic; the Scales of it are leafy; and their points ſtand out.

ASTER TRIPOLIUM.

SEA STARWORT.

Plate 8.

The Leaves are narrow; and the Flowers are many.

Multitudinous

Multitudinous as the kinds of Aſter are, with which the warmer parts of Europe, and, moſt of all, America, have filled our gardens; this is the only one that graces our country wild.

It is a Perennial; native of our damp grounds near the ſea, and great rivers; a handſome Plant, of a Yard high.

The Stalk is ruddy, and branched.

The Leaves are ſmooth, and of a very fine green.

The Flowers are numerous, large, and blue.

They blow in Auguſt.

Of its virtues nothing is known.

IV.

MATRICARIA.

FEVERFEW.

The Cup is rounded: and its Scales are very numerous, and very narrow.

1. MATRICARIA

Matricaria

Character Generica

1

Matricaria
Parthenium
Common Feverfew

3

Matricaria Maritima
Sea Feverfew

2

Matricaria
Chamomilla
Corn Feverfew

1. MATRICARIA PARTHENIUM.
COMMON FEVERFEW.

Plate 9. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are cut, down to the Stalk, in broad and ſlaſhed diviſions.

This is a Weed of our waſte grounds; and is no where ſo frequent as about farm-houſes; a perennial, buſhy Plant.

It grows to two Foot high, with a pale Stalk, and many Branches.

The Leaves are of a faded yellowiſh green.

The Flowers are very numerous, and white.

They blow in June.

The whole Plant has a ſtrong and very particular ſmell, and a bitteriſh taſte.

Provident Nature, which has placed this Herb every where at our doors, has doubtleſs given to it theſe ſtriking qualities, to invite us to its uſe; which is indeed very great.

In

In diſorders ariſing from an obſtruction of evacuations peculiar to the female ſex, its virtues are beyond all praiſe; and above all value.

Steel given on theſe occaſions tears the conſtitution; and, for a little preſent good, ſometimes entails a laſting ſeries of diſorders. The chymical preparations of Steel are yet by many degrees more hurtful than its ſimple ſelf; but we have here an innocent Herb, incapable of harm, ready at hand, that will do all the good that can be expected from them; without the poſſibility of miſchief.

The fact is the ſame in a thouſand other inſtances; for our own Herbs are as full of virtue, as deſtitute of miſchief: and I do, in Chriſtian truth, believe, (tho' 'tis a very bold concluſion) that more good may be done in the world by Herbs; than miſchief by chymical preparations.

For the uſe of this Plant no medical art is needed:

needed: the Leaves are to be ſtripped off, and boiling water poured on them. A ſtrong tea is to be thus made of Feverfew; and it is to be drank by half-pint baſins. Three in a day will be ſufficient.

In the worſt Head-Achs this Herb exceeds whatever elſe is known.

A lady of great worth and virtue, the mother of the late Sir William Bowyer, told me, that having in the younger part of her life a very terrible and almoſt conſtant Head-Ach, fixed in one ſmall ſpot, and raging at all times almoſt to diſtraction; and which the neighbouring Dr. Thorold, of Uxbridge, very eminent in his profeſſion, had attempted in vain to remove; ſhe was at length cured by a maid-ſervant, with this Herb.

The lady drank the tea of it plentifully; and applied the warm leaves, of which the tea had been made, to the part. The complaint ceaſed; and never returned.

The

The frequency of Head-Achs, and the Relief obtained by many from this Herb, ſince the firſt publication of theſe Sheets; have brought before the Author a number of Caſes, in perſons of all ranks, from the very higheſt to the poor; in ſome of which candour obliges him to ſay, the advantage was but temporary; the pain, after a few days, returning. Theſe were moſtly Caſes where a thickneſs of Blood, and long obſtructed veſſels, threatened worſe conſequences; Palſies, or Apoplexies: but theſe alſo may be cured by a volatile Spirit from the Herb, diſtilled with Sal Armoniac. The Reader will accept the following inſtance.

A gentleman about Fifty, a perſon of honour, and not haſty in forming his opinions, gives the account.

He took a Tea of Feverfew for a vehement Head-Ach; which it always alleviated; and ſometimes, for a few days, removed: but the complaint ſtill returned upon him.

It was a ſettled heavineſs, and dull pain; with frequent ſhootings, that cut like knives: attended with giddineſs, dimneſs of ſight, and a diſturbed imagination. He applied to the Author, who diſtilled ſuch a volatile Spirit from the ſame Herb, which has perfectly cured him. This gentleman is otherwiſe healthy, excepting for the Gout; and tho' he cannot ſay how far this Medicine may have aſſiſted, yet it is certain he has been, ſince the taking it, much ſtronger on his feet, than of ſome time before.

2. MATRICARIA CHAMOMILLA.

CORN FEVERFEW.

Plate 9. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are cut into many parts, as fine as threads.

This is an annual Weed, hateful to farmers: but it has its virtues.

It grows to a Foot and half high.

The Stalk is ſlender, pale, and branchy.

The Leaves have no ſmell.

The Flowers are large, and white.

They blow in July.

Theſe have the virtues of thoſe of Chamomile; but with more cordial warmth.

3. MATRICARIA MARITIMA.

SEA FEVERFEW.

The Leaves ſwell up, and are thick; and they are compoſed of many parts, which are again cut down to the rib.

This is a ſea-ſide, perennial Plant, frequent in Cornwall.

It grows to eight Inches high, upright, and branchy.

The

The Stalk is thick, and ruddy.

The Leaves are of a dull green; hollow underneath, and riſing on the upper ſide.

The Flowers are white, with a low yellow diſk.

They blow in Auguſt.

Its virtues are not known.

THE candid Reader has here laid before him, the Specimen of a Method, by which it is propoſed, to learn; to aſcertain; and then to make public, The Virtues of the Plants of Britain.

Where nothing is known, nothing is aſcribed to them: where many things have been ſaid, ſuch alone are mentioned here as have been proved by experience: where there is a probability of virtue, the herb is propoſed for trial; and reaſons are given for that opinion: and where danger threatens; that is alſo mentioned.

Upon this plan, tho' the obſervations of many are requiſite; the means of them are rendered

eaſy: and the cauſe truly deſerves them. There are in England, on a free conjecture, fifteen hundred Plants which promiſe, by their taſte and ſmell, conſiderable virtues: of theſe more than a thouſand yet remain to be tried: And every advance is ſomething to the general good; ſo it be made with accuracy.

The firſt thing, to this purpoſe, muſt be to know, and make known perfectly the Plant itſelf, to others: and in the method here employed 'tis hoped that is not difficult. The general heads of the characters; and the deſcriptions of the parts, are plain at leaſt; and obvious: and the ſuperadded diſtinctions, which mark the gradations next under them, 'tis hoped are evident. Thoſe which diſtinguiſh kind from kind, and Plant from Plant in the ſame kind, are eaſier yet, and cannot be miſtaken: and herein lies the reality of knowledge.

Every one knows what a radiated Flower is; for every one has ſeen a Sun-flower, or a Marygold:

gold: when therefore he ſees ſuch a Flower, whoſe Cup has only one row of Scales, he finds here, that only two kinds of Engliſh Plants have that character; and looking to the next diſtinction, he ſees, that if thoſe Scales are flat, the Plant is Coltsfoot; if they be hollowed, it is Bidens. This is ſhort and eaſy: more is not needful; and the Plant can never be miſtaken.

Thus he will be led to know every Herb he finds; by referring it to its characters; thoſe whoſe virtues are unknown, as well as thoſe we are better acquainted with; for all are here: and all are neceſſary to be known; not only for diſtinction from each other; but ſince all may have virtues.

There is a plain neceſſity alſo for knowing all the Plants of the ſame name or kind with that in uſe; becauſe the greateſt errors may be fallen into by uſing one of thoſe kinds for another.

Nightſhade, for inſtance, is a name of many Plants; all of one general kind; but of moſt different virtues. There is one whoſe proper doſe is two ounces; another that can make great alterations in the body by a quarter of a grain: and one whoſe roots, and ſeveral whoſe fruits, are eaten at table. Therefore he who ſhould ſay, give Nightſhade in ſuch a caſe, would preſcribe under a dangerous name; till all theſe were known aſunder.

Hence alſo appears their folly (for it deſerves no better name) who would adviſe men to ſeek the virtues of Herbs merely by their forms, or characters.

We ſee in this ſmall ſpecimen, that, among radiated Plants, one is ſtomachic, another pectoral, a third a powerful diuretic; and ſo on: yet are no Plants more naturally or juſtly joined in character, than thoſe with radiated Flowers. And even, beſide all this variety of virtues in theſe; the Doronicum and ſome others of this

kind,

kind, are poiſonous. It is experience, not the forms of Plants, muſt lead us to the truth: but that, unleſs we are accurate, is uſeleſs.

The Author of theſe carefully conſidered Pages hopes, by their means, to make ſuch accuracy eaſy, and familiar. God has given him many bleſſings: the Public are the means thro' which he has received them; and this is the return which piety and gratitude demand. For once the motive will not be miſtaken; for thoſe who ſee the nature and price of the preſent Publication, will not ſuppoſe 'tis dictated by intereſt.

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FINIS.

VIRTUES
OF
BRITISH HERBS.

NUMB. II.

CONTAINING,

CURES—Of the GRAVEL by a Tea of GOLDEN-ROD;
Of SCORBUTIC BLEMISHES by a Decoction of EUPATORIUM;
AND
Of the PILES by YARROW.

An Account of the eminent Virtues of BUTTERBURR in FEVERS, and the PLAGUE itself.

And of the Excellence of Flowers of TANZY for the Cure of WORMS.

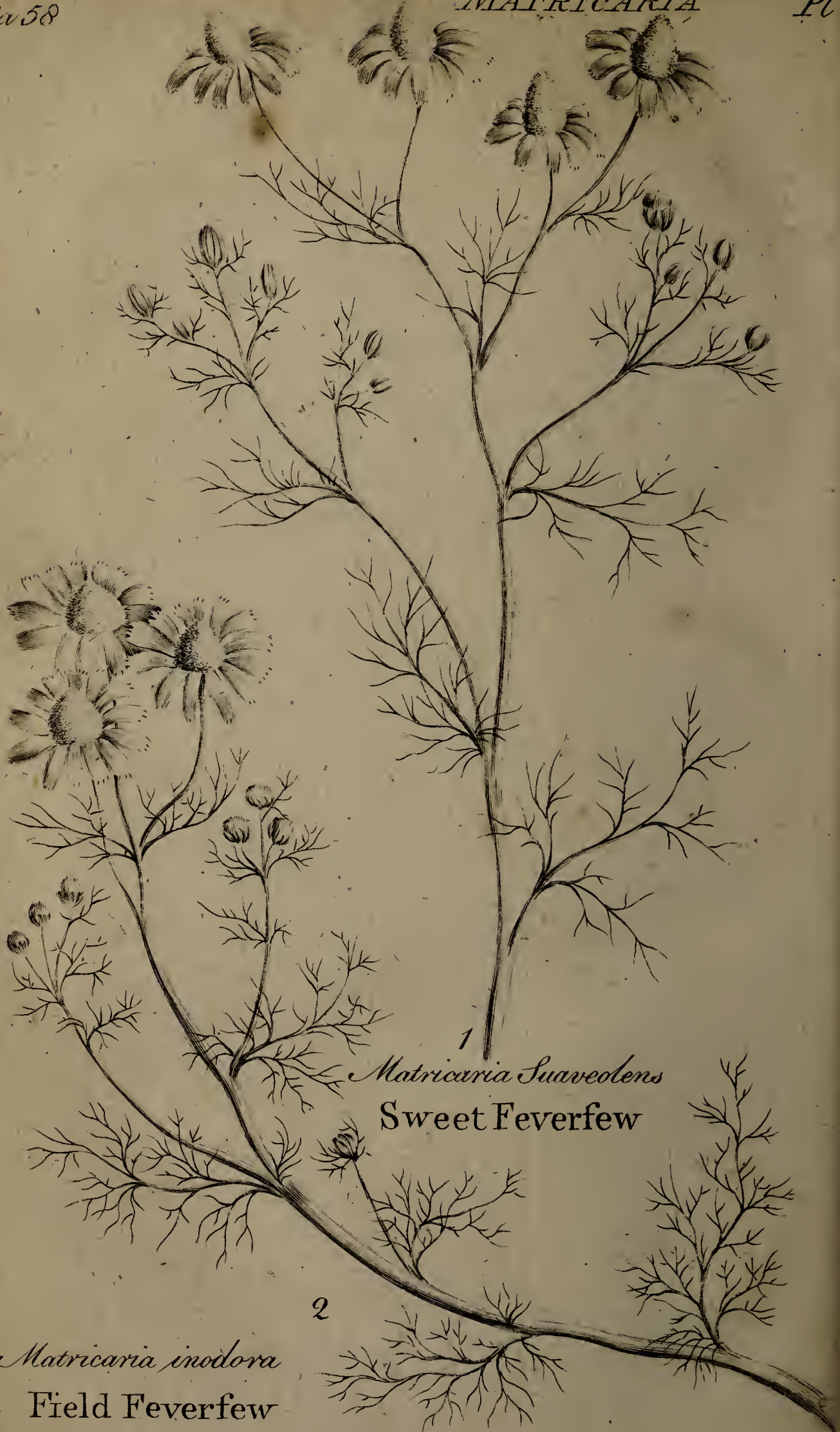
The Power of CONSOUND as a VULNERARY; and the original Receipt for ARQUEBUSADE-WATER:

With an Instance of an inveterate STOMACH-COMPLAINT cured by a Tea of the Flowers of SWEET FEVERFEW.

VIRTUES

OF

BRITISH HERBS.



1

Matricaria Suaveolens

Sweet Feverfew

2

Matricaria inodora

Field Feverfew

VIRTUES OF BRITISH HERBS.

1. MATRICARIA SUAVEOLENS.

SWEET FEVERFEW.

Plate 10. Fig. 1.

THE diſk, or center of the Flower riſes high; and its Rays turn back.

This is an Annual; a Weed in the corn fields of Suſſex; and other places where the ground is light and ſandy: it grows to twelve or fourteen inches high, ſometimes to two foot; with an upright Stem, and many branches.

The Stalk is ruddy, firm, and hard.

The Leaves are cut into diviſions as fine as threads; and are of a duſky green colour.

The Flowers are very numerous, large, and white; only the diſk, or central part is yellow.

They blow in June.

The Flowers of this Plant have an agreeable bitterneſs; and they poſſeſs the virtues ſuch a taſte declares: they are ſtomachic in a very high degree. I had a ſingular and ſtriking inſtance of it ſome years ago. The late Ducheſs of Richmond, moſt excellent of women; moſt charitable and moſt beneficent; through whoſe means, I perſuade myſelf, I have done ſome good in Suſſex; deſired me, when once at Goodwood, to viſit a farmer's wife in the neighbourhood, who was periſhing from mere want of nouriſhment. An averſion to all food had poſſeſſed her for many months; not to be accounted for by any means; or equalled by all that has been written in medicine. It was ſcarce poſſible to get her to taſte any thing whatever;

and

and a few minutes after the leaſt morſel was got down, ſhe always threw it up again.

I found her in the uſe of a Tea made from this Plant; and as her friends thought it promiſed good, I recommended the continuance of it. The Tea was made only from the yellow centres, or diſks of the Flowers, clipped into boiling water. A Clergyman in the neighbourhood had taught her the method, and ſhewed her the Plant. The infuſion was the moſt grateful bitter that could be taſted. Her ſtomach, which abhorred Gentian, and the like, bore this: and by a conſtant perſeverance in its uſe ſhe was cured.

Among the receipts of country families are found many inſtances of ſuch peculiar virtues, in particular Species of Plants: he will be very uſeful who ſhall aſſiſt in collecting them together, and making them generally known.

2. MATRICARIA INODORA.

FIELD FEVERFEW.

Plate 10. Fig. 2.

The diſk of the Flower is broad and low; and its rays ſpread out flat.

This is an Annual: a Weed on our dry ploughed grounds and ditch banks: it grows to half a yard high; in a wild ſtraggling manner.

The Stalk leans in part upon the ground, and ſpreads toward the top into ſeveral Branches: its colour is a dark, and coarſe green, often ſtained with red.

The Leaves are of a deep and duſky green: and when bruiſed, they have a raw unpleaſant ſmell.

The Flowers are large, and of a milky white, with an orange-coloured diſk.

They blow in Auguſt, and September.

The great uſe of this Herb is external. The whole Plant with its Flowers beaten, and made into

Character Genericus
1
Achillæa Millefolium.
Common Yarrow.
2
Achillæa Ptarmica.
Sneezewort

into a poultice, with ſome bread and milk, and a little oil, ſoftens and diſpoſes to maturation. It is emollient, and at the ſame time warm; which is for this purpoſe a happy mixture of qualities. I have ſeen it uſed with great ſucceſs; and wiſh the Surgeons would attend to it: there is nothing they want more.

V.

ACHILLEA.

YARROW.

The Cup is egg-ſhaped: and its ſcales are oval; and turn in at the points.

1. ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM.

COMMON YARROW.

Plate 11. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are cut into a multitude of fine ſmall parts.

This is an upright, and not unhandſome Plant, common in our paſture grounds; and (like many others) of much more uſe and value than is generally known. It is a Perennial, and grows to two foot high.

The Stalk is upright, covered with Leaves, but deſtitute of Branches. Its colour is a dull, and ſomewhat greyiſh green.

The Leaves are of a deep dead green colour, and of a tough ſubſtance.

The Flowers are uſually white; but 'tis a common, and very pretty variety to ſee them of a delicate crimſon: and 'tis worth knowing, that the Flowers of this colour produce Seeds which will always raiſe red-flowered Plants.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

Lord E—— firſt told me, that Horſes loved the young Leaves of this Herb: and that it might be uſed to increaſe the quantity of food in dry paſtures; that yield naturally but little graſs.

Some Writers of great name and worth, have taken pains to tell us what Plants Cattle will not

not eat: they judge of this by looking at what are left in grounds where they have fed; and all ſuch they direct to be rooted up. We have in this an inſtance, that more care is needful than men commonly will take, to ſhew what is and what is not valuable. Yarrow is a Plant left ſtanding always in fed paſtures; for Cattle will not eat its hard dry Stalk; nor have the Leaves any great value after this riſes: but Yarrow ſtill is uſeful. I ſowed ſome in a barren patch of graſs ground; and all the while the Leaves were tender, the Cows and Horſes eat them heartily: It proved wholeſome, and doubled the natural produce. On cutting down the Stalks as they roſe, the Plant ſtill kept in leaf and freſhneſs; growing as it was eaten.

As a Medicine, Yarrow always has been eminent: it alleviates pain, and reſtrains violent bleedings. The Piles are a moſt frequent and moſt troubleſome illneſs: they will ſometimes be diſtractingly painful; and bleed too much. In this caſe Yarrow ſcarcely has its equal. A ſtrong

Tea ſhould be made of the Leaves, and drank plentifully; and equal parts of this Herb, and of Toadflax, ſhould be made into a poultice with pomatum; and laid on outwardly. Sleep follows, and the pain grows eaſy, and the bleeding leſſens.

There is an ancient ſuperſtition of Yarrow curing Tertian Agues; but too idle to be much regarded. A Leaf of it is to be pulled off with the left hand, pronouncing at the ſame time the ſick man's name; and this Leaf is to be taken. The ſame thing has been ſaid of Feverfew; for in old times names of Plants, as well as now, were too much confounded. The Feverfew ſeems beſt for the purpoſe; but doubtleſs it will do as well without the ſuperſtition.

2. ACHILLEA PTARMICA.

SNEEZEWORT.

Plate 11. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are long and narrow; and beautifully dented at the edges.

This

Character Genericus.

Solidago virga aurea. 1
ommon Golden Rod.

Solidago Cambriea. 3
Welch Golden Rod.

2 *Solidago Augusti folia.*
Narrow leavd Golden Rod.

This is a pretty Plant, a Perennial, native of our moiſt grounds, but not common.

It grows to two foot high, in a regular manner, with many upright Stalks of a pale green, and not much branched.

The Leaves are of a lively green; and there is a neatneſs in the indentings round the edge that is very pleaſing.

The Flowers are white, with a greyiſh diſk.

They blow from July to November.

Culture renders them double; and they are then a very handſome ornament in our gardens.

This is an acrid, ſharp Plant: it brings water into the mouth: and ſnuffed up cauſes ſneezing, and that even to the bleeding of the noſe. It is not one of thoſe Herbs I would wiſh ſhould be of common uſe.

VI.

GOLDEN ROD.

SOLIDAGO.

The cup is cylindric, and its ſcales are narrow, and turn inward their whole length.

1. SOLIDAGO VIRGO AUREA.

COMMON GOLDEN ROD.

Plate 12. Fig. 1.

This is a Perennial; a very handſome Plant, that grows by wood ſides, and on heaths and among thickets.

It riſes to two foot high, with an upright reddiſh Stalk, turned and bent a little from the joints, and terminated by a long and beautiful ſpike of Flowers.

The Leaves are of a deep but not very fine green, and they feel a little harſh.

The

The Flowers are of a gold yellow, and numerous, though ſmall.

They blow in Auguſt.

It is a balſamic, vulnerary Herb; long famous againſt inward hurts and bruiſes: but it has greater and more certain virtues.

It is an excellent and ſafe Diuretic; few things exceed it in the Gravel; and when there are ſmall ſtones ſo lodged as to cauſe heat and ſoreneſs, which are too often followed with bloody or purulent urine; then 'tis this Herb ſhews all its excellence.

Its balſamic virtues co-operate with its diuretic quality; and the parts are at the ſame time cleanſed, and healed.

No preparation is better than a Tea of the Herb for this ſervice; and the young Leaves have the moſt virtue.

2. SOLIDAGO ANGUSTIFOLIA.

NARROW-LEAVED GOLDEN ROD.

Plate 12. Fig. 2.

This is a very pretty Plant, native of Ireland; a Perennial, that makes a handſome figure on their rocky hills. It grows to a foot and half high; and has few or no Branches.

The Stalk is weak, tender, and of a dead green, tinged with a ruddy brown.

The Leaves are of a bright and gloſſy green, ſmooth, and lightly dented at the edges.

The Flowers are of a pale yellow, and ſtand in a looſe pretty Spike.

They blow in July.

It reſembles the preceding in virtues as in form.

Pa. 70

ERIGERON

Pl. 13

Character Genericus

1
Erigeron Acre.
Sweet Fleabane

2
Erigeron Canadense.
Canada Fleabane

3. SOLIDAGO CAMBRICA.

WELCH GOLDEN ROD.

Plate 12. Fig. 3.

The Flowers ſtand at the top in a round cluſter.

This is an humble, but a pretty Plant; a Perennial, native of the Welch mountains: a favoured food of Goats.

The Stalk is ſimple, upright, brown, and ſix inches high.

The Leaves are oblong, narrow, pale, and a little downy.

The Flowers are numerous, and of a gold yellow.

They blow in Auguſt and September.

The taſte ſeems to ſhew virtues the ſame with thoſe of the firſt kind, but in an inferior degree.

VII.

ERIGERON.

SIMSON.

The Cup is cylindric: its Scales are awl-ſhaped; and placed erect. The rays of the Flower are narrow.

1. ERIGERON ACRE.

BLUE SIMSON.

Plate 13. Fig. 1.

The Flowers ſtand ſeparate, one above another, alternately.

This is a Perennial, native of our high dry grounds; a ſtrange Plant; that appears twice in the year, and wears two different faces.

In April we ſee it weak, lying on the ground, and ſcarce ſix inches long: in Auguſt and September it flowers a ſecond time, and is then ro-

buſt,

buſt, upright, about fifteen inches high, and carries larger Flowers.

The Leaves are of a dull dead green, ſoft to the touch.

The Stalk is ruddy, firm, and dry.

The Flowers are of a purpliſh blue : they never ſpread quite wide open ; but the Rays always ſtand upward.

It is a ſharp and acrid Plant. We have the teſtimony of Haller, that they give it in ſome parts of Germany in diſorders of the breaſt, where the complaint ariſes from a tough phlegm : But it appears to me one of thoſe Herbs that ſhould be uſed with great caution.

2. CANADA SIMSON.

ERIGERON CANADENSE.

Plate 13. Fig. 2.

The Flowers are cluſtered in great numbers at the top of the Stalks.

This is an Annual, that grows on our dry banks, and among rubbiſh: ſometimes we find it not ſix inches high, ſometimes two foot or more.

The Stalk is of a duſky green, tinged with brown.

The Leaves are various; the lower of ſome breadth, and rudely dented; the upper narrow and undivided; all of a dead greeen.

The Flowers are white, and of no beauty.

They blow in Auguſt and September.

Character
Genericus
2
Senecio viscosus.
Stinking Groundsell.
Senecio
Jacobæa. 1
Common Ragwort.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup that is fringed, or ſurrounded with ſhort Leaves at the bottom.

I.

SENECIO.

GROUNDSELL.

The Scales of the Cup are withered at their tops.

1. SENECIO JACOBÆA.

COMMON RAGWORT.

Plate 14. Fig. 1.

The Leaves ſeem cut, or rather gnawn, to rags.

This is a Weed too frequent in our paſtures, covering a great deal of ground to ill purpoſe,

for no Cattle touch it. It is an Annual; leafy, branchy, and of a coarſe, ill aſpect.

The Stalk is two foot high, firm, upright, thick, and of a dull green, often ſtained with brown or red.

The Leaves are of a dark coarſe green, and ſmooth; and have an unpleaſant ſmell.

The Flowers are numerous and yellow.

They blow in June, July, and Auguſt.

The taſte of the Leaves is a diſagreeable bitter; with a mixture of ſharpneſs. It has been ſaid they are good againſt the Dyſentery *: the juice is directed to be taken.

Externally, they have been praiſed with good reaſon againſt Swellings, and in Inflammations: they are to be boiled to ſoftneſs; and applied as a warm poultice, with bread and oil.

* S. Pauli.

2
1
Senecio
Sylvaticus.
Mountain
Groundsell.
2
Senecio Aquaticus.
Water Ragwort.
3
Senecio
Sarasenicus.
Saracens Consounds.

2. SENECIO VISCOSUS.

STINKING GROUNDSELL.

The Leaves are thick, and clammy to the touch.

This is an offenſive, fulſome Weed, upon our dry ditch banks; an Annual, of ſtraggling, and irregular growth.

The Stalk is two foot high, ſoft, tender, and of a pale green.

The Leaves are of a faint green, thick, downy, and ſoft: they ſtick to the hands; and ſmell ſo rankly that the common people thence call it Stinking Groundſell.

The Flowers are numerous, ſmall, and of a faint yellow.

They blow in July, and till the end of ſummer.

This has been praiſed in fluxes of the bowels, and I believe with reaſon; for in the uſe of it

on ſome other occaſions, I have found that it has the emetic power of Ipecacuanha; but in a leſs degree, and not in ſo agreeable manner. The virtues of that drug in dyſenteries is well known. The uſe I have made of this is againſt hyſteric complaints: and it has proved a good; tho' moſt unpleaſant medicine.

3. SENECIO SYLVATICUS.

MOUNTAIN GROUNDSELL.

Plate 15. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are ſmooth: and the Rays of the Flower turn back.

This is a tall and robuſt Plant, common on our ditch banks, and in other waſte dry places; an Annual.

The Stalk grows to a yard high, and is of a dull green, tinged with brown.

The Leaves are of a faint green, and firm to the touch.

The Flowers are numerous, and of a fine light yellow.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

The

The people in Lincolnſhire uſe this externally againſt pains and ſwellings; and, as they affirm, with great ſucceſs.

4. SENECIO AQUATICUS.

WATER GROUNDSELL;

OR,

WATER RAGWORT.

Plate 15. Fig. 2.

The Root Leaves are broad, with a few jags at the baſe; thoſe on the Stalks are deeply divided down almoſt to the rib.

This is a Water Plant, common enough by ditch ſides, and in places where the wet ſtands in winter; a Perennial of handſome growth.

The Stalk is two foot high, and ſpreads out into wide Branches.

The Leaves are of a lively green, ſtained ſometimes with red; and they are ſmooth and gloſſy.

The Flowers are of a beautiful bright yellow.

There is an acrid ſharpneſs in this Plant, that ſpeaks againſt its uſe; though otherwiſe 'tis like the reſt of its kind.

5. SENECIO SARRACENICUS.

SARRACENS CONSOUND.

Plate 15. Fig. 3.

The Leaves are oblong, broad, and ſerrated.

This is a robuſt, conſpicuous Plant, common in the meadows of Yorkſhire and of Wiltſhire; but elſewhere ſcarce; a Perennial, that propagates abundantly by its ſpreading Roots.

The Stalk is four foot high, green, tough, and ſpreading at the top.

The Leaves are of a fine freſh green, ſmooth, bright, and gloſſy.

The Flowers are ſmall and yellow.

Wonders are related of the virtues of this Herb againſt hurts and bruiſes: and it is a great ingredient in the Swiſs Arquebuſade Water. It is balſamic and diuretic.

Many

1

Senecio Erucæfolius

Hoary Groundsell

2

Senecio paludosus

Marsh Fleabane
or Birds tongue

Many receipts have been ſpoken of for the making this famous Water; and great ſecrets are made of ſome of them. The beſt I have ſeen is that which follows: I obtained it, by purchaſe, from one whom I believe to be a perſon of veracity and knowledge; and am happy in this opportunity of giving it to the Public; becauſe every one who has an Alembic, may now make it with the greateſt eaſe.

Take Leaves of Angelica half a pound, Bugle, Scabious, Comfry, Spear-mint, Roman Wormwood, of each ſix ounces; Germander, Rue, Speedwell, and Common Daiſy, each a quarter of a pound; Roots of Butterburr, and Tops of St. John's Wort, of each three ounces; Leaves of Saracens Conſound, ten ounces.

Gather all theſe freſh, and hang them up three days in an airy place; then clip them ſmall, and put them into the Alembic, with two gallons of Molaſſes Spirit: let them ſtand

two days; and then add three gallons of water. Diſtil off one gallon and a half; add to it one gallon of ſpring water, and half a pound of the fineſt ſugar. Let it ſtand four days, and then filter it through paper, and put it up for uſe.

They are particular in uſing only the wild Saracens Conſound; for they ſay when raiſed in gardens, it gets an ill quality. There appears to be no certainty in this account; but they affirm it poſitively: and ſuch notices ſhould always be regarded.

6. SENECIO ERUCÆFOLIUS.

HOARY GROUNDSELL.

Plate 16. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are hoary; and the Rays of the Flower ſpread flat.

This is a woodſide Plant; a Perennial that loves ſhade, and flouriſhes beſt where there is a little moiſture.

The Stalk is upright, and a yard high, of a dead green, and furniſhed with many Branches.

The

The Leaves are of a pale green, and ſomewhat hoary.

The Flowers are large, handſome, and of a light yellow.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

Its virtues ſeem the ſame with thoſe of the others of its kind; for the taſte, ſmell, and all its ſenſible qualities reſemble them: and 'tis ſaid that a ſtrong infuſion of it is an excellent Gargle in a ſore throat; ſpitting it out.

7. SENECIO PALUDOSUS.

MARSH GROUNDSELL.

Plate 16. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are long, narrow, delicately ſerrated, and downy underneath.

This is a very handſome Plant found in our marſhes, upon rotten boggy ground, and almoſt in water; a Perennial; of upright regular growth.

The Stalk is brown, firm, and near a yard high, and it has few or no branches.

The

The Leaves are beautifully ſerrated, and are of a bright light green above, and hoary below.

The Flowers are of a very fine bright yellow. They blow in Auguſt.

In the iſle of Ely, where this Plant is common, they boil the Leaves in Hog's Lard, and make of them an ointment, which does good in the Sciatica. The virtues are very much ſpoken of; and the thing is eaſy to be made: the Leaves are to be freſh gathered, and chopped ſmall, they are then to be put into as much Lard as will melt eaſily with them; and when they are boiled till they are criſp, the Lard is to be preſſed off; and when cold, put by for uſe.

HERBS

Which have a tubulated Flower, growing in a Cup conſiſting of only one row of Scales.

If we pull off the Rays from any of the preceding Flowers, we ſhall ſee what is called

by

BIDENS

Character Genericus

1 *Bidens Tripartita*
Trifid Hemp Agrimony.

3 *Bidens minima*
Dwarf Hemp Agrimony.

2 *Bidens cernua*
Undivided Hemp Agrimony.

by Botaniſts, a tubulated Flower. Thoſe conſiſt of a diſk or central part, ſurrounded with Rays: theſe of the central part only: they have no Rays.

I.

BIDENS.

HEMP AGRIMONY.

The Cup is broad, and cylindric, and its Scales are hollow.

The Reader will remember the term Bidens; we had it in the former number at page 15. But there are plants of this name which have no Rays to their Flower: and every herb muſt ſtand in its juſt place here. There is no way elſe of knowing them diſtinctly.

1. BIDENS TRIPARTITA.

TRIFID HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 17. Fig. 1.

The Leaves are cut into three parts.

This

This is a coarſe ill growing water Plant, branchy and robuſt; an Annual of no beauty.

The Stalk is brown, upright, thick, and near a yard high.

The Leaves are of a duſky browniſh green.

The Flowers are yellow, and they blow in Auguſt.

The Seeds are oblong and light, and have three points, by which they ſtick to the cloaths of thoſe who paſs haſtily by them.

They ſtuck to Mr. Baker's, the premier Philoſopher of the Royal Society; and they will long ſtick to his name, and theirs: he thought them living creatures, and they are deſcribed and figured as ſuch in the Philoſophical Tranſactions; under the name of Unknown Animals.

The Leaves of this Plant have the ſingular ſmell and taſte of the radiated Bidens of Ireland; but in a greater degree. 'Tis probable its qualities are of the ſame kind: but 'tis that plant, not this, that ſhould be firſt tried in caſes of the gravel.

2. BIDENS

2. BIDENS CERNUA.

UNDIVIDED HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 17. Fig. 2.

The Leaves are lanced and dented, and they grow together at the baſe.

This is an Annual, native of our ditches and wet grounds; a buſhy, coarſe, robuſt Plant.

The Stalk is two foot and a half high, of a deep green, tinged with a ruddy brown, and full of branches.

The Leaves are of a ſtrong ſhining green, and ſmooth; but towards Autumn they commonly get a ruddy brown hue alſo.

The Flowers are of a dull unpleaſing yellow; they hang down; but the ſeeds which follow them, riſe upright.

They blow in Auguſt, and the ſeed ripens in September.

The taſte and ſmell declare the ſame qualities in this, as the preceding; but it is ſtill leſs to be recommended for trial, than the Iriſh kind.

3. BIDENS MINIMA.

DWARF HEMP AGRIMONY.

Plate 17. Fig. 3.

The Leaves are lanced, and undivided at the edges; and they ſtand free of one another at the baſe.

This is a little Annual, native of our damp places, and where water has ſtood in winter; a plant of no beauty; eaſily overlooked, and that has been overlooked, even by great writers.

The Stalk is ſimple, upright, without any branches; and grows but to five or ſix inches high. Its colour is a reddiſh brown.

The Leaves are of a pale green, and waved at the edges.

The Flowers are yellow, and they ſtand upright, not drooping as the others.

They blow in Auguſt.

Linnæus

Pu 88.

PETASITES

Pl 18.

Character Genericus

Petasites 1 *ovatus*

Common Butterbur

2 *Petasites elatior*

Tall Butterbur

Linnæus did not allow the exiſtence of this plant as a diſtinct Species, in the former editions of his Species Plantarum : I had ſome reaſoning with his Pupils here about it : but he, to his everlaſting honour, is open to conviction. In the new edition of that valuable book, he has allowed it a place, as I had done in the ſecond volume of the Vegetable Syſtem.

This has ſcarce any thing of the peculiar ſmell and taſte of the others.

II.

PETASITES.

BUTTERBURR.

The Cup is oval, and its Scales are flat.

1. PETASITES OVATUS.

COMMON BUTTERBURR.

The head of flowers is oval and compact.

This is a perennial, ſpreading plant; common in wet grounds and low meadows; and has the ſtrange property of ſending up its flowers at a different ſeaſon from its leaves; very long before them: as the Coltsfoot alſo does. Many an eye is familiar with its vaſt leaves, that never knew the ruddy tuft of flowers belongs to the ſame plant.

The Flower-ſtalk appears early, and grows to eight inches high, thick, tender, juicy; and hung about with a multitude of ſkinny films, of a pale fleſh colour.

The Leaves come afterwards, and grow to a vaſt ſize; they are roundiſh, of a pale green, with thick white veins, and often are a foot and a half in diameter.

The Flowers are of a pale fleſh colour.

They blow in April, and fade before the Leaves arrive at any great ſize.

The Root is whitiſh, thick, tender, juicy, and ſpreads about under the ſurface to a great extent.

'Tis one of thoſe innumerable inſtances that the Providence of God, ever attentive to the good of man, has placed thoſe things about us in great plenty, which can be of great uſe.

This is an admirable medicine in fevers of every kind: taken early it prevents the miſchiefs that often riſe naturally in thoſe diſeaſes; and oftener from the errors of phyſicians.

We may remember that, in a fever which raged near twenty years ago, and proved very fatal; the phyſician uſually aſked at his firſt viſit, if the patient had been blooded; and if he was anſwered Yes, he would tell the relations there was little hope.

Bleeding indeed was fatal in theſe caſes; and I am afraid the medicines uſually given in the firſt attacks of all fevers, had proved not leſs fatal. The diſeaſe was of the putrid kind: the ſame fever raged at the ſame time in Germany: and while we died by bleeding, and by chemical medicines; they lived by Butterburr.

We are threatened with a heavier viſitation now; our crimes call it from Heaven! the Almighty pardon us! and preſerve us from it! but if that greateſt of all calamities ſhould come, there are few things from which we may expect ſo great relief, as from this herb. This is no new thought, or haſty obſervation. The Greeks uſed it with the greateſt ſucceſs; and it were happy if their practice were more followed: and the very name of the plant among the Germans, is Peſtilence Wort.

Whether for common fevers, or for this; for putrid fevers, or for what is called the ſore-throat, with ulcers; which ulcers are indeed only one ſymptom of a putrid fever, however other-

wiſe

wiſe the matter has been ſpoken of; the method of uſing the Butterburr, is this.

Lay open the earth about the root; and it will be found to conſiſt of an oval body, ſending out long, thick fibres: throw away the fibres, and cut the oval body of the root through, to ſee if it be ſound. 'Tis of a whitiſh colour; of a pleaſant, fragrant, ſpicy ſmell; and a warm aromatic bitter taſte: ſoft and tender to the touch; and juicy.

Waſh off the dirt from this; and ſlice thin an ounce of it: ſet on ſome ſoft water to boil: put the roots into a new earthen pipkin; and pour upon them a quart of the water, boiling hot. Let this ſtand till it is quite cold, no longer: then pour it clear off; add a quarter of a pint of mountain wine, and a little fine ſugar. Let about a quarter of a pint of this be taken once in four hours: the ſpirits will be raiſed; the horrid anguiſh that attends theſe fevers, and announces their danger, will be ſoon removed; a kindly gentle ſweat, not violent, will follow;

every bad ſymptom will diſappear : and the patient will recover.

If in the worſt of caſes, a boil ſhould appear under the arms, or elſewhere, be aſſured that on its coming to ripeneſs, depends the hope of life; and to promote that, uſe the ſame root externally.

Make a common poultice of bread and milk ; and to half a pint baſin of this, add a quarter of a pound of Butterburr root, bruiſed, but not boiled ; add alſo a little ſallad oil ; and apply this carefully : keep it warm by many doubled cloths ; and renew it often.

The patient will thus have all the chance of life, the nature of the caſe admits.

Will you have more authority ? receive it : for confidence in truth is half a cure. Dioſcorides, the Father of Botanic Medicine, recommends Butterburr plainly enough for this outward uſe : and we ſhould probably have read with him its praiſes alſo internally, if all ſtood right in the copies ; but (to our irreparable injury)

jury) that confuſion of names, which I have laboured ſo much here to get men to avoid; took place even ſo early. This plant and Colocaſia, an herb as different, as difference there could be, excepting only in the form and outline of the leaf, were confounded in one name of Petaſites.

Theophraſtus, the Parent of Botanic knowledge; called the Butterburr Petaſites, becauſe its leaf reſembled the round hat of the antient Theſſalians; which they called Petaſis; and in the time from him to Dioſcorides, the Ægyptian Colocaſian Water Lilly, having a round leaf alſo, obtained alſo the ſame name.

As both plants grew in watery places, the confuſion became more fixed: but ſtill, when ſudorific virtue is attributed to Colocaſia, I think that all the praiſe belongs to Butterburr. Galen has ſignified his opinion plainly, by placing it according to his method among ſimple medicines, warm in the third degree.

The excellent Fuchſius is moſt expreſs; and

records its virtues as wonderful * in Peſtilential fevers: and this he ſpeaks not from tradition; but his own experience. Shall we go on?—But were it needful to prove the Sun gives light; 'tis ſcarce leſs certain, or leſs obvious, that this root, beyond all things elſe, cures Peſtilential Fevers.

2. PETASITES ELATIOR.

TALL BUTTERBURR.

Plate 18. Fig. 2.

The cluſter of Flowers is long; and they ſtand looſe.

This like the former, grows in our wet grounds, and has all the particularities of its appearance: 'tis a Perennial that ſends up its looſe flowers in Spring; its leaves long after them.

The Stalk is as thick as a man's thumb, of a pale fleſh colour, and leafleſs; only ſome thin films hang about it as in the preceding.

The Leaves are of an enormous magnitude,

* Experimento comprobatum eſt radicem Petaſitidis mirifice conferre peſtilentialibus febribus.

rugged

Character Genericus

Tanacetum vulgare
Common Tanzy

rugged on the ſurface, and of a pale green colour, with whitiſh ribs.

The Flowers are whitiſh, with a faint daſh of fleſh colour.

They blow in March.

The Root of this has the taſte and flavour of the former kind; but with more bitterneſs. Its qualities are nearly the ſame; but the other is to be preferred. However the two herbs have been uſed indiſcriminately: and this is in many places the more common. In a meadow near the late Sir William Bowyer's, at Denham, there grows a great quantity.

HERBS

With a tubulated Flower, growing in a Cup compoſed of many rows of Scales.

I.

TANACETUM.

TANZY.

The Cup is an half oval. Its Scales ſtand upright, and are placed cloſe, and compact; and they are thin and ſharp pointed.

1. TANACETUM VULGARE.

COMMON TANZY.

Plate 19.

The Leaves are winged; and the ſmall leaves are deeply cut in.

This Herb is not only common in our gardens; but wild on the high grounds, and dry paſtures

paſtures, in Durham; and ſome other parts of England. 'Tis a Perennial, and a well looking Plant.

The Stalk is upright, branchy, of a light green, and a yard high.

The Leaves are of a bright, and pleaſing green, and of a very fragrant ſmell: it is not coarſe as that of the Tanzy common in our gardens, but a pleaſing aromatic.

The Flowers are large, and of a bright yellow.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

Notwithſtanding that the Tanzy of our gardens, is originally the ſame plant with this; they differ widely in their taſte and flavour; and in this we ſee the Swiſs opinion of the Saracens Conſound in ſome degree ſupported: 'tis certain, they will not uſe that plant when it has grown in a garden. This Tanzy is a very pleaſant herb, and worth our notice, with preference, where it is to be had: but where it is not, the other may be taken in its place.

It is an agreeable bitter; a carminative, and a deſtroyer of worms: and 'tis in this laſt capacity that it is principally to be regarded.

No complaint is ſo frequent; and few bring on ſo much miſchief: beſide the more common and obvious diſorders which they occaſion; a waſting, even to death, and Putrid Fevers ſometimes accompany, and indeed ariſe from them: and oftener than is thought, they are the cauſe of Epilectic Fits. The medicines given againſt them are for the moſt part ineffectual; and many of them miſchievous. Hellebore has brought on Convulſions; and every one knows the danger of Mercurials.

Beſides the greater miſchiefs of theſe latter medicines, 'tis fit the world ſhould be reminded that half the defective teeth in our young people, are owing to Mercurials given when children.

To ſuperſede theſe, Nature has afforded us

this herb in plenty: and Tragus, Hoffman, Etmuller, and Andry; names, one of which were ſufficient in this caſe, join in the account of its thus deſtroying worms. But that is not all; they agree in its innocence and ſafety: and in this farther praiſe; that by ſtrengthening the ſtomach, and preventing the production of ſlimy humours in the bowels which gives theſe creatures harbour and ſupport, it hinders alſo their return.

The Flowers are the part to be uſed, and they ſhould be given in powder: but there requires care in the collecting them to obtain all their virtue. Clip off a quantity of Tanzy flowers cloſe to the ſtalk, before they are over blown: do this in the middle of a dry day; and ſpread them on the bottom of a hair ſieve turned upſide down; ſhake them often about, and let the wind blow thro' them; but keep them from the ſun. When they are perfectly dry let them be powdered; and of this powder give ſix, eight, ten, or twelve grains at night; and again early in the morning.

II.

CONYZA.

PLOWMAN'S SPIKENARD.

The Cup is oblong and rugged; the Scales of it are ſharp pointed; and they ſtand wide, and bend out.

1. CONYZA SQUARROSA.

PLOWMAN'S SPIKENARD.

Plate 20.

The Leaves are broad lanced.

This is a Biennial; a coarſe, and but ill-looking plant: we ſee it by road ſides, and in waſte places, upon high and dry grounds; but not very common.

The Stalk riſes to two foot and a half high; and

Pa. 102

CONYZA

Character Genericus

Conyza Squarrosa
Plowmans Spikenard

EUPATORIUM

Pl 20

Character Genericus

Eupatorium cannabinum
Dutch Agrimony

and is of a ruddy brown; brittle, dry, and branchy toward the top.

The Leaves are rugged on the ſurface, of a coarſe dead green, and a little dented about the edges.

The Flowers are of a dull yellow, and ſtand in a cloſe tuft, at the tops on the ſtalks.

They blow in Auguſt.

The Leaves, when bruiſed, ſend forth a quick, and aromatic ſcent: and to the taſte they are bitteriſh, with ſome ſharpneſs.

Such taſte and flavour cannot but beſpeak ſome medicinal qualities; nor do the accounts which authors have given of its virtues, contradict them: but they ſhould be more aſcertained. The old Tragus, (commonly very faithful) recommends it to promote the menſes: and indeed an innocent medicine of that kind is ſo deſirable; and the obvious qualities of this plant are ſo promiſing, that I ſhould recommend a very weak tea of it for careful trial. This might be watched with

atten-

attention in its effects; and made ſtronger when it is found that might be borne.

The caution is needful; for Cordus, a careful obſerver, ſays the herb is ſo acrid and hot as to make the mouth ſore.

Some ſtrength is required in ſuch a medicine; and perhaps this has it. Where there is great efficacy, as in ſteel medicines, there is alſo great power of miſchief: and we ſhould wiſh to have many different things, to ſuperſede their uſe.

Dioſcorides gives great praiſe to Baccharis; attributing to it warm and attenuating qualities. It would be worth a very careful attention if it were poſſible we could by any means be ſure this was the Baccharis he meant: but unhappily there is here that great confuſion before lamented about the names of ſome of the plants, of which he had experience.

We have been falling into the ſame miſchief

now;

now; and all knowledge has been fading before it. I hope this publication may have its uſe in ſtopping the progreſs of a cuſtom, which muſt in time deſtroy every attempt to help mankind, by the moſt innocent medicines. The greateſt ſorrow is that the moſt reſpected names have given too much countenance to this practice. Linnæus, worthy of all praiſe, yet not without his faults, has of late given the names of Dioſcorides's plants, to new kinds found only in America. If ſuch a method be not ſtopped, good night to all.

III.

EUPATORIUM.

DUTCH AGRIMONY.

The Cup is conic, its Scales are lanced, they are unequal in ſize, and they ſtand ſtrait upright.

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1. EUPATORIUM CANNABINUM.

COMMON DUTCH AGRIMONY.

The Leaves are fingered.

This

This is a Perennial water-plant, a tall, ſpecious, and very handſome one, that edges our brooks and rivulets, in moſt places.

The Stalk is red, and grows to four foot high, upright and branchy.

The Leaves are of a bright and lively green, ſoft to the touch, and diſpoſed with a handſome regularity.

The Flowers are ſmall, but innumerable; they are crowded together in a compact head, and are of a beautiful roſe-colour.

They blow in Auguſt.

The Root is of an acrid, bitter, and unpleaſant taſte: and it will purge. But it operates roughly, vomiting as well as purging: ſo that we have many better.

It has however been recommended in Dropſies, and the Jaundice. Externally, it has indeed its uſe: I have ſeen very bad ſore legs cured by bathing and fomenting them with a decoction of this Plant.

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